Withdrawal from oil pool account

†2262. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the amount in excess to the prescribed amount from the oil pool account has been withdrawn by some of the public sector companies in respect of the corporate payment during the recent past years;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the amount in excess withdrawn by each of the company, separately; and

(c) the total amount deposited in the oil pool account till the end of March, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the C and AG in its Report No. 2 of 2000 (Civil) has made certain observations in regard to management of oil pool account. The Government is in the process of settling these observations.

(c) The Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector has been dismantled with effect from 01.04.2002 and the Oil Pool Account stands abolished effective this date.

Increase in freight rate for transportation of crude oil

†2263. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the freight rate fixed for the transportation for the crude oil from abroad has been increasing continuously after April, 2002 to September, 2003;

(b) if so, what was the freight rate in April 2002 and in September, 2003; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) how much increase and decrease in the said freight rate has been made during the said period alongwith the dates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The freight rates are different for different regions and vessels sizes. Also, the freight market has been quite volatile during April 2002 to September 2003. During this period, the monthly average freight rates for IOC have varied from Rs. 152.64 per MT in May 2002 to Rs. 445.84 per MT in April 2003. The monthly average freight rate for IOC for the months of April 2002 and September 2003 was Rs. 227.03 per MT and Rs. 199.68 per MT respectively.

Constitution of Sub-Groups

2264. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to constitute sub-groups under the Task Force to formulate long-term framework for utilization of natural gas available from various sources;

(b) if so, what are the criteria adopted for constituting the sub-groups on 'Transportation' and 'Demand and utilisation' of gas;

(c) whether any request from Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry for inclusion of the representatives in the above sub-Groups; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Government have constituted three Sub-Groups under the Task Force to formulate long-term framework for utilization of natural gas available from various sources.

(b) The Sub-Groups have senior members/officials from major stake holders i.e. upstream companies like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited